

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

So. Baptists gather in San Antonio

1876-1976
100 YEARS
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOC
COMMERCE ST. ST. STE. 401
NASHVILLE, TN 37203-3200

SINCE 1877
21, 2007
VOL. 131
NO. 25



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

LEADING IN PRAISE — L. Lavon Gray, minister of music and worship at First Church, Jackson, leads congregational praise and worship during the June 13 morning session at the 2007 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio. Gray has been tapped to be convention music director for the 2008 SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. (Photo by Tony Martin).

SAN ANTONIO (BP) — Southern Baptists meeting in San Antonio June 12-13 re-elected Frank Page as president, focused on a call for repentance, and passed a motion identifying the Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) as the denomination's "only consensus statement of doctrinal beliefs," while saying it's not a creed but a guide.

Page, the pastor of First Church in Taylors, S.C., was elected unopposed, one year after he surprised many observers by being elected on the first ballot in a three-man race at the 2006 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in his hometown of Greensboro, N.C.

Page this year used his first presidential address to say the denomination must repent of its "hubris" and "arrogance" in order to hope for revival.

With more than 8,600 messengers in attendance, it was the first annual meeting held in San Antonio since 1988.

"For 30 years we've been trying to raise baptism levels among non-revived churches among non-revived people who've lost their passion for the lost," said Page, adding he was paraphrasing longtime evangelism professor Roy Fish, "but interestingly enough, we've become strangely passionate about our own agendas... [We should ask ourselves,] 'Why am I not as deeply passionate about the lost?'

"... I have seen a factionalism that deeply disturbs me, and I have asked Baptists across this land, 'Although we have... significant differences, would you take my hand and work with me in the winning of the lost to Jesus and the winning of this world to Christ?'

The following day, messengers unanimously passed a resolution calling on Southern Baptists to "humble ourselves in individual and corporate repentance" and urging the denomination "to embrace a spirit of repentance, pursue face-to-face reconciliation where necessary, and enter into a time of fasting and prayer for the lost."

California pastor Rob Zinn preached the convention sermon



NEW OFFICERS — Messengers to the 150th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention elected officers June 12-13 in San Antonio, Texas. Officers are (from left): John Yeats, interim pastor of Ridge Avenue Church in West Monroe, La., and communications director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention as recording secretary; Jim Richards, executive director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, first vice president; Frank Page, pastor of First Church in Taylors, S.C., president; Eric Redmond, pastor of Hillcrest Church in Temple Hills, Md., as second vice president; and Jim Wells, director of missions for Tri-County Association in southwest Missouri and a member of Hopedale Church in Ozark, as registration secretary. (BP photo by Matthew Miller)

and delivered a similar message, saying, "We are a denomination that talks a lot and does little when it comes to evangelism."

Addressing the topic of dismal baptism numbers within the SBC despite lofty goals, Zinn said, "Our attitudes stink." The denomination, he added, must be willing to change its methodology while staying true to the Gospel message.

One of the changes, he added, includes music. His church uses a blended style. He asked grandparents in the audience, "How many of you love those grandkids enough you'd be willing to change your music for them?"

"[If] we're going to win [young people] to Jesus in this culture, we're going to have to be willing to change our mindsets," said Zinn, pastor of Immanuel Church in Highland, Calif. "... Folks, what you did in the [19]40s and what you did in the '50s isn't going to win this culture to Jesus."

Reflecting the call for repentance and revival, every few hours throughout the meeting messengers were asked to gather in small groups in prayer, turning the lively, noisy convention hall into a reverent silence.

Meanwhile, the BFM-related motion dominated conversation about business matters both on and off the floor. With a vote of 57.7%-42.2%, messengers adopted the following statement: "The Baptist Faith and Message is not a creed, or a complete statement of our faith, nor final or infallible; nevertheless we further acknowledge that it is the only consensus statement of doctrinal beliefs approved by the Southern Baptist Convention and as such is sufficient in its current form to guide trustees in their establishment of policies and practices of entities of the Convention."

For at least some, the statement was open to interpretation. Page gave his viewpoint at his press conference.

"I do think that what is happening is an attempt by many people — and I do not know if it's a majority — to say that the pendulum has swung far enough," he said, adding there was a "a day and time when [the BFM] was an extreme document to some and now it's almost like it's being seen as more moderating, a moderating influence."

"I do believe we've gone far enough and that the Baptist Faith and Message is enough and I encourage entities not to

go beyond that in their doctrinal parameters," he said. "I think that's what many people are saying. The current issues that have evoked this discussion are different than the conservative-moderate issues of the past."

"There are issues within ... the family of conservative theology, and there are many people that are arguing various secondary and tertiary issues that are still within the framework of inerrantism or an extreme conservative viewpoint. So I don't think it's the same issue that we've had in the past."

One reporter asked Page if he was saying that "when the BFM is silent on a subject" that an entity "should not take action in any way that goes beyond the BFM."

"No, that's not what I said," Page said. "I said in doctrinal parameters I think they need to be very careful in moving past them. We do respect the trustee system and if they do, they do have that right. I simply said I urge them not to go beyond doctrinal parameters. There are multitudes of issues that trustees have to deal with as regarding personnel, regarding issues of all kinds that may not be directly doctrinal at all."

(cont'd on page 2)



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

**Send news, communication, and
address changes to:** The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 131 • NUMBER 25
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Protecting the Cooperative Program

The 2007 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) last week in San Antonio was, by most all accounts, a deeply spiritual time of worship, preaching, and praise to our magnificent God and His Only Begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

That fact should not be overlooked amid the news reports of budgets proposed, resolutions offered, and motions made. All those items are important components of any SBC annual meeting, but they aren't the only reason we travel such great distances at no small expense to gather together.

That's true for state convention and associational meetings, too. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in the dramatic reports of heated debates and close votes that we tend to overlook the main purpose of our annual meetings, which is corporate and individual praise and worship directed toward our Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

We must not allow ourselves to be distracted from that praise and worship, but business matters are important to the work of the convention and must also be addressed and reported.

Among the items taken up at the San Antonio meeting were statements on global warming and a reiteration of our repentance of past racial sins. A breathtaking Cooperative Program budget was approved. Reports from the mission boards were received.

One business item from San Antonio that shouldn't be passed over too quickly is the debate over the meaning of the Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program is of course the funding mechanism for just about all the Kingdom work we hope to accomplish as Southern Baptists (in addition to the special offerings and other gifts).

The way the Cooperative Program has worked since its inception is that the churches receive offerings from their members and retain a portion to fund their local church ministries and programs. The remainder is sent to the state Baptist conventions, which retain a portion for state ministries and programs and send the remainder to the Southern Baptist Convention to fund ministries and programs on that level.

That system has worked well for many years, but there has been talk lately about changing the way Cooperative Program gifts are counted so that other programs and ministries (church-sponsored mission trips, for example) can be credited toward a church's Cooperative Program gifts.



Southern Baptist Convention 2007 annual meeting

The issue became a hot topic after last year's SBC annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., where powerful Arkansas pastor and presidential candidate Ronnie Floyd lost out to current SBC President Frank Page in large part because of his church's pitiful Cooperative Program giving record. It was after Floyd's defeat that the topic of including non-Cooperative Program expenditures in a church's Cooperative Program giving total became really loud.

The messengers to the San Antonio meeting last week dismissed that idea in a convincing manner, overwhelmingly adopting a statement proposed by the SBC Executive Committee that states CP is "Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through

which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries."

That should put the matter to rest. The Cooperative Program is too important to water down with technicalities and loopholes, for the purpose of artificially inflating the giving records of the churches of candidates who seek high SBC office. That's playing politics, plain and simple.

The Cooperative Program is what it is, and has worked incredibly well for nigh on 85 years. It isn't broke, and it doesn't need fixing.

Now let's get back to praising the Lord.

SBC annual meeting, (cont'd from page one)

In other matters:

- New North American Mission Board (NAMB) President Geoff Hammond appeared before messengers for the first time in his new position, asking them to pray for a movement of "churches planting churches planting churches planting churches."

- International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, a Clinton native, said more than 475,000 new believers were baptized and more than 23,000 new churches planted last year through the work of IMB missionaries. Rankin encouraged SBC churches to partner with overseas missionaries through short-term mission trips and prayer and financial support.

- Executive Committee President Morris Chapman, a native of Kosciusko, delivered an address saying, "[I]f we believe a doctrine is a part of the core belief system of Southern Baptists, it should be in the Baptist Faith and Message."

- "If an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention adopts a confession of faith separate and distinct from the Baptist Faith and Message and it includes a doctrine unsupported by our confessional statement, the entity should request approval from the Convention prior to including the doctrine in its confession," he said.

- Messengers adopted an official definition of the Cooperative Program (CP), saying CP "is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries."

The definition came from a recommendation from the Executive Committee and passed overwhelmingly.

- Messengers passed a resolution condemning child sexual abuse, saying Southern Baptists "express our deep level of moral outrage and concern at any instance of child victimization" and that "we implore Southern Baptist churches to utilize materials from LifeWay Christian Resources and state conventions and other relevant research that help churches prevent child abuse."

- Messengers also passed a global warming resolution centered on concern for the poor, urging "Southern Baptists to proceed cautiously in the human-induced global warming debate in light of conflicting scientific research." It also says "Christians are called by God to exercise caring stewardship and dominion over the earth and environment."

- President Bush addressed messengers via satellite, thanking messengers for their prayers. "God has blessed our nation with prosperity and great abundance, and I firmly believe, like you, that we should use our resources to help those at need here at home and help those in need abroad, and this is a central part of the work of the Southern Baptist Convention ... You're living out the call to spread the Gospel and proclaim the Kingdom of God."

- Nearly 1,000 people made first-time decisions for Christ during the Crossover evangelistic outreach. Crossover is an annual event preceding the SBC meeting whereby volunteers witness through the use of, for example, block parties, cultural celebrations, medical clinics, and door-to-door evangelistic visits.

- Jim Richards, founding director of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, was elected as first vice president, and Eric Redmond, pastor of Hillcrest Church in Temple Hills, Md., as

second vice president. John L. Yeats was re-elected recording secretary and Jim Wells re-elected registration secretary.

- The Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions celebrated the 300th anniversary of Baptist associations in America. The Philadelphia Baptist Association was founded in 1707.

- Messengers approved a reallocation of Cooperative Program dollars previously allotted to GuideStone Financial Resources. The new allocation, recommended by the Executive Committee, will increase the allocation for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission from 1.49% to 1.65% for the 2007-08 budget year, resulting in a net increase of \$320,962.

The approved recommendation also will increase Executive Committee funds from 3.32% to 3.40% for the express purpose of providing funds for the stewardship ministry recently assigned to the Executive Committee, resulting in a net increase of \$160,480 in 2007-08.

Additionally, a one-time distribution of \$347,710 will go to each of the convention's three smaller seminaries: Southeastern, Midwestern and Golden Gate seminaries. For the 2008-09 budget year, the same recommendation called for the ERLC's allocation to continue at 1.65% and the Executive Committee's portion to stay at 3.40%. The remaining .52% of GuideStone's .76% allocation would be included in the overall seminary allocation, resulting in an increase from 21.4% to 21.92% for the foreseeable future.

Guidestone earlier this year announced it no longer needed CP funding and was releasing its portion for use by other entities.

Next year's SBC annual meeting will be held June 10-11 in Indianapolis, Ind.

So. Baptists asked to win world to Jesus

SAN ANTONIO (BP) — What will it take to win the world to Jesus Christ?

That's the "God-sized" question Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Frank Page put to David Garrison, the International Mission Board (IMB) regional leader for South Asia, on June 12 during the 2007 SBC annual meeting in San Antonio.

Garrison's answer came from the words Jesus gave to His disciples in John 4:35: "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest."

Garrison said before Southern Baptists can see that harvest, they must first turn away from the ways of the world, from denominational infighting, and ultimately, from themselves. He told messengers the story of three Southern Baptist missionaries who sacrificed their lives to tell others about Jesus.

On Dec. 30, 2002, a Muslim named Abdul Kamil walked into Yemen's Jibla Baptist Hospital and gunned down Martha Myers, Bill Koehn, and Kathleen Gariety. Kamil's wife struggled with infertility and had been a patient of Dr. Myers for nearly a year. After the murders, Kamil was arrested and interrogated by police.

"My wife told me that no one had ever treated her with such love and tenderness as Dr. Myers," Kamil said, according to Garrison. "When I saw how



RECONNECTING — Gary Bowlin (center), vocational evangelist from Summit and past president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, talks with a pair of old friends at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio. (Photo by Tony Martin)

this love had so touched my wife, I knew I must kill this doctor. Because a love so powerful was dangerous, it could turn all of my people away from Islam."

"What Dr. Myers, Bill Koehn and Kathleen Gariety did with their lives would be considered foolishness when measured by the ways of this world," Garrison said, "but friends, we

can see in God's great plan that it was the power of God unto salvation. Southern Baptists, do not follow the ways of this world. We have a higher calling!"

Garrison said believers next must recognize the lostness that surrounds them. His region, South Asia, has the greatest concentration of lostness anywhere in the world. It includes nations like India, where there are more than 800 lost persons per square mile.

"I'm troubled, my friends, when I come back to America and I see Southern Baptists becoming more and more cocooned in the evangelical Christian world. I'm convinced more lost people are not coming to Christ because more Southern Baptists do not know lost people. Jesus looked around Him and saw a lost world and His heart wept for the lost.... Southern Baptists, lift up your eyes and see a lost world around you."

Garrison recalled story he read about a religious man named Halappa who had developed an "extreme devotion" to

the god he worshipped. One day, Halappa's wife found him lying in the couple's garden. He had cut his own throat before his "god" — a stone. Halappa died on the way to the hospital.

"This tragedy... seems bizarre to us," Garrison said, "but it should not, because lost people are desperate for Jesus Christ whether they admit it or not."

"Imagine... if someone had been there to tell him that 'Yes,' God did want to have a relationship with him, and 'Yes,' God did provide a blood sacrifice for his salvation — but we got there too late."

Garrison concluded his SBC challenge by asking Southern Baptists to "lift up their eyes" so that they may see "the impossible made possible."

"Jesus Christ is changing lives in South Asia and around the world," Garrison said, "and He's working through us to do it whenever we turn away from ourselves, when we turn away from fighting one another, when we turn away from the ways of this world and follow His ways."

R. Graham remembered

MONTREAT, N.C. (BP) — Ruth Bell Graham, wife of evangelist Billy Graham, died June 14, surrounded by her husband and five children at her Montreat, N.C., home. She was 87. "Ruth was my life partner, and we were called by God as a team," Billy Graham said in a statement. "No one else could have borne the load that she carried. She was a vital and integral part of our ministry, and my work through the years would have been impossible without her encouragement and support. I am so grateful to the Lord that He gave me Ruth, and especially for these last few years we've had in the mountains together. We've rekindled the romance of our youth, and my love for her continued to grow deeper every day. I will miss her terribly, and look forward even more to the day I can join her in heaven." For several weeks, Ruth Graham had been confined to bed as she suffered from degenerative osteoarthritis of the back and neck, and two weeks ago she was diagnosed with pneumonia and seemed to be recovering. A. Larry Ross, a spokesman for the Graham family, told Baptist Press. But on the morning of June 13 she fell into a coma. Ross said Graham was alert on Sunday, June 10, to celebrate her birthday and was encouraged by visits from family members. The day before his wife died, Billy Graham released a statement saying she would be buried on the grounds of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C. The two had made the decision on their own, he said. "I am more in love with her today than when we first met over 65 years ago as students at Wheaton College," he said in his June 13 statement. Ruth Graham was born June 10, 1920 in China, the daughter of medical missionaries. She attended high school in Pyongyang, Korea (now North Korea) before returning to the U.S. at age 17 — her first trip to the States took place at age 7 with her parents on furlough — to attend Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill. It was there that she met her future husband. The Grahams' youngest daughter, also named Ruth, said her mother played an integral role in her father's ministry. "I don't believe Mother has adequately been recognized and honored for what she had done, because without her, Daddy's ministry would not have been possible," she said. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has launched a tribute website to Ruth Graham at <http://www.bgea.org>.

Looking back

10 years ago

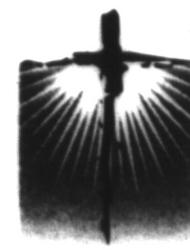
As a result of the Covenant for a New Century restructuring, the Home Mission Board, Radio & Television Commission, and the Brotherhood Commission are now all part of the new North American Mission Board.

20 years ago

Adrian Rogers is re-elected president. Southern Baptist participation in the Baptist Joint Committee for Public Affairs is continued, and the Peace Committee's final report is accepted — all on the first day of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in St. Louis.

30 years ago

Billy Graham continues his New York City crusade for a fourth week at Madison Square Garden, with a half million in attendance and 16,000 signed decisions recorded.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 21, 2007

VOL. 131

NO. 25

HOW MANY SPACES DO YOU FILL?

I was out on the road and arrived at the motel late into the night. I checked in, got my room key, and went back out in the rain to park my car. When I saw where my room was, there were no parking spaces anywhere near where I was going to be but then I saw why there were no spaces. Somebody in a pickup truck pulling a large utility trailer had parked in front of the rooms, taking up five spaces. I certainly understand that even if you are pulling a trailer, you have got to park somewhere, but since it was raining, it intensified my concern that he had blocked five spaces right in front of where I was going to stay. There was nothing to do but park a good distance away out in the lot and unload in the rain in order to get to my room. I pulled in a spot, got my stuff out of the car, and started trudging across the parking lot in the rain. I passed the truck with the trailer hitch on it taking up five parking spots. Normally, I would not think much about it because I often park a distance from wherever I am going just so I can walk, but it was late, it was raining, and some inconsiderate soul had hogged all of the parking spaces.

As I thought about whomever it was that had parked this way I was not angry but neither did I have on my happy face. The next morning when I got ready to leave, I had actually forgotten about coming in late, sloshing through the rain, and thinking about the truck and trailer



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

spread out over five spaces until I saw the guy who had done it. There he was getting in his truck — one person occupying five spaces, and he was about to leave. Things were different now because I was also about to leave and head on my way. The sun was out, it was a new day, and who cares, so just move on. I did! I went on down the road to where I was going to preach that morning, but I kept thinking about the fellow that had taken all of the spaces. Now I am assuming that he paid the same rate as I did to spend the night there, and I know that he had to park his truck some place. I wondered if he had gotten there before it started raining. I wondered how many other people had been inconvenienced by him because they needed to park closer to their rooms. Then I began to reflect on how many people take up a lot of spaces at church with little concern for others who need to be there.

There are people who take up space and do not pay anything. In most of our churches, the norm is that half of the members never give a penny to support the work of the Lord and to share Christ around the world.

However, it was more than just doing good deeds. He went about doing good for others, encouraging them, guiding them, loving them, and making a difference in their lives. It did not matter who, where, or when because when Jesus came in contact with them it was an opportunity for transformation of spirit and renewal of hope.

The bottom line question may not be how many spaces are you filling, but more importantly what are you doing in the space that you are occupying? If you are only taking up room and draining resources, now might be a good time to say, "Lord that is not what I want to do." Ask Him to show you and empower you to make a difference in both your life and the lives of those who are around your space.

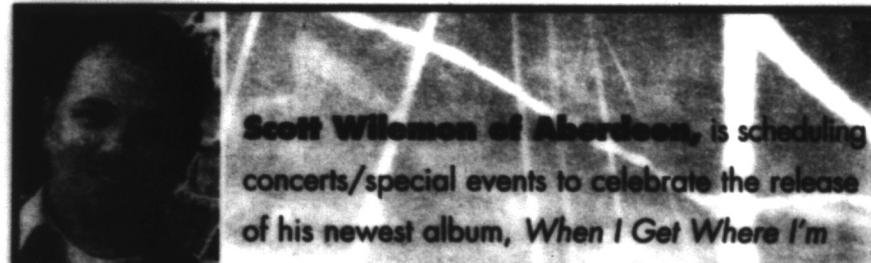
To be perfectly honest, while I felt bad about the guy who had filled up five spaces and caused me to have to walk further in the rain, the next day I realized that the trailer was filled with supplies, equipment, and building tools that no doubt he was using to make a difference and help folks. Then I felt bad about feeling bad. All that is to say that sometimes people who look like they are just filling spots are doing more in their space than we know or for which they receive credit. Leave that up to the Lord and concern yourself with filling your space with what He would have you to be and do.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947
info@msaudiollc.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880



Scott Wilemon of Abbeville, is scheduling
concerts/special events to celebrate the release
of his newest album, *When I Get Where I'm
Going*. Scott's home-spun humor and mix of
Southern and Country gospel classics will appeal to both young
and old alike. A member of Friendship Baptist Church, Scott's
unique approach to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ
through song and testimony has endeared him to audiences
for the past several years. For more information on hosting
Scott at your church or event, call 662-304-0214 or e-mail
Scott at info@tswilemon.com. You can also hear Scott's music
and read more about him at www.tswilemon.com.

www.tswilemon.com

HOOMEOMINGS AND REVIVALS

Friendship Church, McComb: Revival, July 8-11; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Kennedy, speaker; Tom Walsh, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

Hebron Church, Grenada: Homecoming, June 24; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner and singing; Bobby Douglas, speaker; Bill Wilson, music; donations for cemetery upkeep to Hebron Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 315 Hebron Church Road, Grenada, MS 38901.

Palestine Church, Harrisville: Homecoming, June 24; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; David Parker, speaker; cemetery donations to Palestine Baptist Church, Old River Road, Harrisville, MS 39082.

Pilgrim Rest Church, Ethel: Homecoming and Revival, June 24-27; Sun., 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Donald Self, speaker.

Pleasant Grove Church, Gore Springs: Revival, June 24-27; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Truman Scarborough, J.R. Eaton, Kevin Jackson, and Jeff Gilder, speakers; Neil Gant, pastor.

Providence Church, Meadville: Homecoming, June 24, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal and afternoon music; Wiley Reid and Cletus Moak, speakers; Brian Lees, pastor.

Southside Church, Vicksburg: Church Anniversary and 4th of July celebration; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch, games and fellowship and Hosanna singing, 6 p.m.

Stanton Church, Natchez: Revival, June 24-27; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Step Martin, speaker; Price Harris, music; Steve Purvis, pastor.

Vardaman Church, Kemper County: Revival, July 9-11, 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, speaker; Josh Meadows, pastor.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 21, 2007

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

Pastor & Wife RETREAT



"PROVIDING
A TIME OF
ENCOURAGEMENT,
INSPIRATION AND
FELLOWSHIP
FOR THE PASTOR
AND HIS WIFE"

Cost

For two nights lodging
and six meals:

Adults: \$112 per person;
Preschool-6th grade:
\$56 per person; Age two
and under: no cost.

There is no conference
fee. The MBCB
Conference
Office accepts VISA and
MasterCard.

July 12-14, 2007
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Lowry and Kandi Anderson

Lowry is senior pastor at Bel-Aire
Baptist Church in Gulfport.

Kandi has been a radio personality
for American Family Radio and former
manager of the Gulfport station. She is a
columnist for the Sun Herald and author of
It's Just Another Bloomin' Day.

Lowry and Kandi have three chil-
dren and six grandchildren. They have led
marriage conferences, revival weekends
and enjoy sharing a testimony of "Puny
Clay in the Hands of a Great Potter."

Registration and Reservation

Participation is limited to the first 30 couples
who register for this retreat. Patterson Place has
cabins with two queen-sized beds in each.

Registration must be made with the MBCB
Conference Office. Call 601-292-3216.

For more information, call the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department at (601) 292-3305 or
1-800-748-1651 [toll-free in state].

Alan Woodward, director ♦ Keith Gordon, consultant
Kay McDonnell, ministry assistant



Swanberg

2007 State Senior Adult Rally

Thursday, August 30

Mississippi College, Swor Auditorium

• \$1 at door • Registration 8:30 a.m.

Speaker: Dennis Swanberg

Music: Visionaries Choir, FBC, Hattiesburg

Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

LITERACY MISSIONS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Calhoun Baptist Association

Calhoun City

July 26-28, 2007

Cost - \$25

Deadline for registration - July 1
Contact to register 662-628-6262

Copiah Baptist Association
Hazlehurst

August 23-25, 2007

Cost - \$25

Deadline for registration - August 1
Contact to register 601-894-2024

FBC, Brandon - date TBA

North Delta Association - date TBA

TUTORING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Copiah Baptist Association

Hazlehurst

November 1-3, 2007

Cost - \$25

Deadline to register - October 1
Contact to register 601-894-2024

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STORYING

FBC, Brandon - date TBA

STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Camp Garaywa - October 4-6, 2007

Basic Workshops (ESL, ARW, TCY)
as well as topical seminars

For more information on all the above go to: www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu/literacy/training.aspx
or contact Paula Smith at psmith@mbc.org or 800-748-1651, ext. 336

CWJC/CMJC National Certification Training

Level 1 and Level 2

Camp Garaywa Clinton, Mississippi
August 14 - 17, 2007



For more information, contact Lisa Miller in the MS WMU
Office at 800-748-1651, ext. 317, 601-292-3317, or E-mail
lmiller@mbc.org. Registration forms may also be down-
loaded at www.mbc.org, click on Events, Woman's
Missionary Union.

CONFERENCES

• Fun Time with Rick

Rick Bewley, juggling, music and magic

• Success of Significance for Senior Adults

Tom Crocker, Memphis, Tenn., LifeWay Consultant

• Developing a Servant Heart

Dennis Daniel, Pastoral Care Ministries, FBC, Jackson

To register for meal,
contact Eric Pratt at MC:
601-925-3235,
fax 601-925-3909,
or E-mail at
erpratt@mc.edu.
Deadline to register
for meal is August 23.

Small/Bivocational Church PASTOR'S WORKSHOP "Fit for the Kingdom"



Monday, June 25

Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Tuesday, June 26

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

FEATURED PRESENTER

Paul W. Powell

There will be a \$5 charge per person for the conference. For more information, call: Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. (601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305



Nancy Finn

Ministerial
Education
Contingency
Planning
Leadership
Management
Programs
in the Ministry Assistant

Professional Certification and SkillShops

August 28-30, 2007



Diane Cockrell



August 28-30

For more information, call Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. (601) 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305

The Minister's Health: Three Critical Concepts to Change Your Ministry

August 13
Daniel Memorial BC
Jackson
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

August 14
Lauderdale
Association Office
Meridian
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

TO REGISTER:

Contact
Kathy McDonnell at
1.800.748.1651,
ext. 305,
or 601.292.3305
or
E-mail
kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

SPEAKER
Barney Self

Sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department

SUPER SUMMER UNITED OH SEVEN.

JULY 7-11, 2007
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STUDENTS
UNITE WITH ONE VOICE AND PASSION.

PREPARE. WORSHIP. GO.

DISCIPLESHIP AND FAMILY MINISTRY DEPT. • MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

REGISTER NOW
1.800.748.1651, EXT. 281

National wMu Missions Event



live
the
JOY
of missions

Immanuel B.
Little Rock
October 2007
For more info
www.wmu.org

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

For exceptional persons (12 years and older):
pastors/ministers, parents, teachers and friends

SEPTEMBER 7-8 CAMP GARAYWA

THEME: GAME DAY CENT

There will be games, Bible study, singing, movies, for all participants. Registration begins at 3 p.m. and the retreat concludes at 1 p.m. on September 8.

COST: \$37.50 PER PERSON

This includes overnight lodging and meals. One adult counselor for every five campers will be provided.

Sponsored by the Sunday Schools Dept.

For more info, contact Shelley Hollingshead
601-292-3292

MUSIC Leader

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP/GENRE

L. Graham Smith, Conference
Director/Worship Leader

Jimmy McCaleb

Mike Harland

Ron and Patricia Owens

Gary Hallquist

KEYBOARD

Wyndy South

Joseph Martin, Piano

Becky Lombard, Organ

YOUTH

Susan Luttrell

Joyce Blakesley

For info, contact the Church
Music Department at
601-292-3267, 1-800-748-1651
or www.mbc.org

First Baptist Church
Rock, Arkansas
October 17-20, 2007
For more information visit
www.wmu.com.

WINTER RETREAT



WINTER RETREAT

Weekend of their
holidays
October 17-20, 2007
For more information visit
www.wmu.com.

Weekend of their
holidays
October 17-20, 2007
For more information visit
www.wmu.com.

Weekend of their
holidays
October 17-20, 2007
For more information visit
www.wmu.com.

Leadership CONFERENCE

INSTRUMENTAL PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Sarah Talley
Sandy Lewis, Preschool
Libby Carlton, Younger Children
Carla Nichols, Older Children
Lujean Howard, Coordinators

HANDBELLS

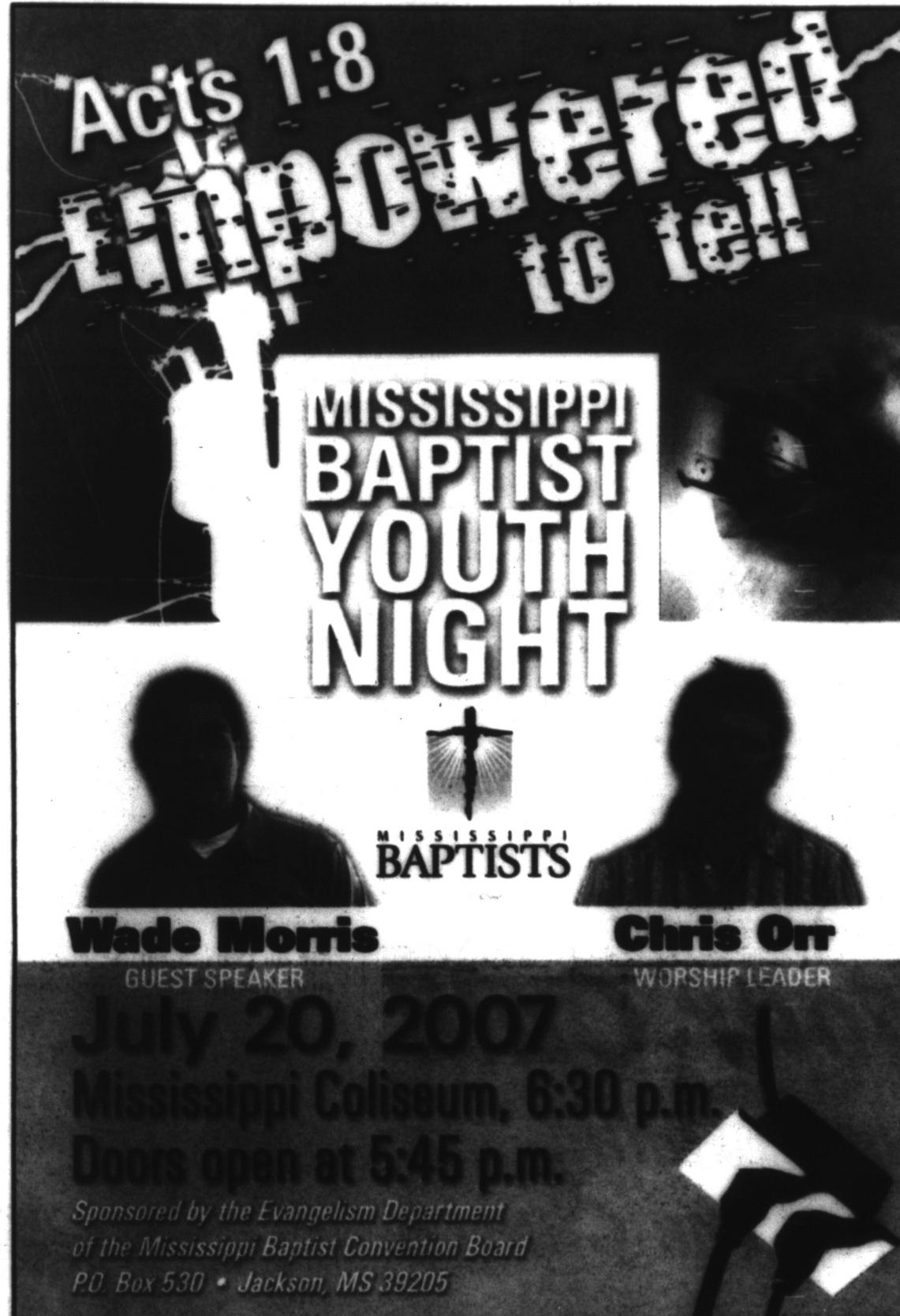
Jerry Talley
Michele Smith

INSTRUMENTAL

David Young

CONFERENCE BEGINS AT 12:30 P.M. ON
THURSDAY AND ENDS AT NOON
ON SATURDAY

07181551
www.wmu.com



Preregister Now!
Please register with:
Lee County
Baptist Association
P.O. Box 2640
Tupelo, MS 38803
Phone: 662-566-1700
Fax: 662-566-4008
E-mail: lcba@lwol.com
(Cost \$5 per person)

Growing Churches

FBC, Tupelo

Friday, July 27

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Conference Check-in

7:00 p.m. - SOME OF THE 27 CLASSES ARE:

WMU Leadership Classes
Men's Mission Classes
Evangelism Training
Youth Ministry Training
Pastoral Leadership
Deacons as Leaders
Teaching Ministry (taught in Spanish)
Sunday School (all age groups leadership)
Discipleship Training Classes
Bible Drill Training
Financial Issues
Personal Growth Classes
Church Planting

8:00 p.m. - 27 NEW CLASSES, INCLUDING:

Services to Target the Unchurched
Using Games to Pep-Up your Teaching
Counseling as a Ministry
SS for the Veteran Pastor
Speakers Tournament
Rewiring for Senior Adults
Staff Compensation
Teaching Ministry (continues in Spanish)

Saturday, July 28

8:00 a.m. - Check-in for New Arrivals

8:30 a.m. - 25 CLASS CHOICES:

(Many are new and some are repeats)
Missions Friends Leader Training
WMU Leadership Classes
Introduction to Disaster Relief
RA Racers/Camping/Other Events
Youth, Pastor, and Deacon Tracks cont.
Discipling Oral Learners (in Spanish)
Charitable Contributions
Physical Wellness
Developing a Biblical Worldview
Servanthood Evangelism
Sharing Christ with Children

9:30 a.m. - 24 CLASS CHOICES:

(Many are new and some are repeats)
Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts
GA Overview
Youth Mission Trip Planning
Retirement Issues for Church Staff
Simple Church

10:30 a.m. - 25 CLASS CHOICES:

(Many are new and some are repeats)
Drama in Worship
Deacons Partnering with the Pastor
Completion of Youth Track

Sponsored by the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department
& North Mississippi Baptist Associations

Pray this day for...

June 22 - July 5, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Happy marriages begin when we marry the ones we love and they blossom when we love the ones we marry."

A 33-year-old believer who works with one of the Wolof team members in Senegal is having a health problem. He shares his faith and desires to see his people, who follow a world religion, come to know salvation and peace with God. Pray for his health and safety, especially as he is one of very few believers in the entire area.

(1) Citizenship & Religious Liberty (CAC Emphasis); (2) In April many Catholics go out in the streets to perform rituals in celebration of Holy Week in Panama. Pray that as Baptist churches reach out here, the Lord will work in the hearts of these lost people to soften them to realize that they cannot be saved by works.

(1) Small/Bivocational Church Pastor's Workshop, Temple BC, Hattiesburg (P/LD); (2) GAV Acteens Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa (WMU); (3) Summer Missions Camp for Boys, Central Hills, 25th - 29th (MM).

In Senegal, two Wolof men working at the U. S. Embassy have expressed an interest in knowing more about Jesus. A Wolof Team member has begun meeting them separately due to their vastly different social positions. Both have the potential to influence many others if they embrace Jesus' truth and leave the faith of their fathers.

(1) Small/Bivocational Church Pastor's Workshop, Emmanuel BC, Grenada (P/LD); (2) Pray for two missionary candidates who are interested in being a theological education specialist for the West Africa French speaking countries and a seminary professor. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom to know His will and the courage to obey it.

Pray for a single missionary joining the Sokoto Fulani Team in Niger in January. Initially she will be learning basic French, and then Fulfulde, the language of the Sokoto Fulani people. Ask God to help her learn these languages quickly and to prepare her well for ministry with Muslim women living in small isolated villages.

"I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Please pray today for President Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico.

(1) Independence Day; (2) Family Celebration, Lake Tiak O'khata, Louisville, 4th - 6th (D&FM); (3) "Join with us in thanking the Lord for His blessings of rain in our area," writes the Seluma Team of Tanzania, and, to allow these rains to continue at regular intervals so that none of the crops will be lost this year.

Harassment of Christian leaders is increasing in China. Pray that all who are brought before authorities because of their stand for Christ will know what to do (Matthew 10:19). Ask the Lord to give them courage in the face of danger and a strong, radiant testimony that will impact all who are present.

(1) Lad/Dad Weekend, Central Hills, 29th - 30th (MM); (2) Lift up a young Indonesian, H, who has come to the point where he needs to make a decision in regard to new life. He is having trouble sleeping and struggles with a sin area of his life. Ask that he might see and experience the authority and power of the one true Father.

In early January a volunteer from the U.S. will go to Sokoto Fulani of Niger to live in a Sokoto Fulani village for three months. Intended for this young man as he adjusts to village life. Pray that through him God will show the Fulani the truth of His Word.

(1) 5 Youth Camp, Hinds Community College, Raymond, 23rd - 27th (SS); (2) Thank you for praying for revival services among churches in Bangalore. Give thanks that approximately 30 people professed faith in Christ and hundreds were encouraged in their Christian lives and challenged to go out and tell others about Jesus.

V is a young Jat who put his faith in Jesus Christ. S, a Jat pastor has been discipling V and helping him try to start a house church in his home. Recently V told S that he wants to leave Jesus because he asked for something in prayer and did not get it. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will stir V's heart back to the Lord Jesus.

It's Your Call!! Mission Leadership Training for the Church

4 locations to choose from:

Missions Leadership Training (a part of Growing Churches)

- FBC, Tupelo, July 27-28

Missions Leadership Training - FBC, Columbia, August 21

Missions Leadership Training - FBC, Olive Branch, August 28

Missions Leadership Training - Camp Garaywa, August 24-25

(Only MLT requiring registration)

- Co-sponsored by Men's Ministry Department and wMu
- For more information on events, contact Tammy Anderson: Call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 323, or 601-292-3323 or E-mail tanderson@mbcb.org
- Camp Garaywa training requires a registration for lodging and meals. Registration forms available online at www.mbc.org (click on events, wMu) or call Alicia Dungan at 601-924-7034 or E-mail adungan@mbcb.org



HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Deacon Ordinations, Stanton Church, Natchez



2. 160th anniversary, New Hope Church, Meridian

1. **Stanton Church, Natchez**, ordained Lucian Bullen, Terrell Foster, and Randy Babb as deacons June 3. Shown are pastor Steve Purvis, Bullen, Foster, and Babb.
2. **New Hope Church, Meridian**, recently celebrated its 160th anniversary with a four-day celebration, including services led by former pastors of the church: Mike Everett, Cliff Pace, Jimmy Sanders, and Randall Creel. Shown are some of the participants in the event.
3. **Petal-Harvey Church, Petal**, held an installation service for their new pastor Tracey Hipps June 3. Hipps comes from Central Church, McComb. Shown are Hipps and George Berger, AMD for the Lebanon Association.



3. Tipps and Berger,
Petal-Harvey Church, Petal

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

FN AGY BSLB OTVL BUO
SVATE, SVY BSLB OBLJL
LBT EUGVO' FGJLBO, LBSL
LBTN BSPT VGL BJKL FT;
ZGKSOJXB SO WTZGKT
BUF UVVGXTVXN QSO
ZGJVY UV FT; SVY SEOG
WTZGKT LRTT, G DUVA,
BSPT U YGVT VG BJKL

YSVUTE OUR:
LQTVLN-LQG

Clue: E = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis Six: Twelve.

“Well done...”

MATTHEW 25:21

EXCELLENT
Long-Term
Results—
Again!

GuideStone
Funds

ENDURING INSTITUTION • SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR CHALLENGES • SUCCESSFUL TRACK RECORD • INVESTMENTS GUIDED BY VALUES

11 of 14 GuideStone Funds Outperformed Lipper Averages!

(As of the five-year period ending 3/31/2007 for the GS4 share class)

GuideStone Funds continued a trend of superior long-term performance. The results prove it. But we're even more excited about the exceptional long-term returns because they were achieved without sacrificing our biblical values. Those values are what keep GuideStone Funds the nation's largest Christian-based, socially-screened registered mutual fund company. And with a manager-of-managers investment philosophy, participants are assured that each GuideStone Fund is managed by world-class investment managers.

Add performance potential and values to your employee benefits package today by selecting GuideStone for your retirement and insurance needs. Call 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) or e-mail information@GuideStone.org. For fund performance information, a fund choices brochure or a prospectus, please visit www.GuideStone.org/values.

You should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of GuideStone Funds before investing. A copy of the prospectus with this and other information about the funds may be obtained by downloading a prospectus at www.GuideStone.org or by calling 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433). You should read the prospectus carefully before investing.

GuideStone Funds are distributed by PFPC Distributors, Inc., a registered broker-dealer and underwriter of the funds, 760 Moore Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406.



1. Black ordained

1. Kevin Black has been called as pastor of Bluff Springs Church, Choctaw County, and was ordained at Wake Forest Church, Sturgis May 20. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University. Shown is Black, center.



SEMINARY NEWS

1. Garrett Holmes, Topisaw Church, Bogue Chitto, graduated from Golden Gate Seminary this spring with a Master of Divinity degree.

VBS

Antioch Church, Brandon: June 24-29, 6 p.m.

Gunter Road Church, Florida: June 24-27, 6-8:15 p.m.

MS POSITIONS

BROOKSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Brooksville, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational music director. Send resumes to Janice Kesler, music chairman, 2922 Fire Tower Rd., Crawford, MS 39743.

HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, Florence, MS is seeking a bi-vocational Minister of Music. Average Church Attendance 150. Please send resume to search committee, 1857 Florence Byram Rd., Florence, MS 39073, or e-mail to resume@hickoryridgebaptist.org.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO SERVE in a young, exciting & growing church? Steep Hollow Baptist Church is seeking a full-time Minister of Music & Education. Call (601) 795-4638 or e-mail to steephollow@bellsouth.net. Please mail resumes to 2336 Hwy 53, attn: Minister of music search committee, Poplarville, MS 39470. Or fax (601) 795-4696.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, located on 49 south in Braxton, Miss., seeking a Minister of Music. Send resumes to Calvary Baptist Church, attn: music committee, P.O. Box 111, Braxton, MS 39044.

Associations' authority, role settled early

Final in a series

By Frank Lay
Correspondent

Baptists have often grappled with the issue of the power of a Baptist association over a local church. They have often asked and debated the question, "What authority does the association have over local churches?"

In wrestling with this question, the Philadelphia Baptist Association asked Benjamin Griffith, pastor of Montgomery Baptist Church in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to write An Essay on the Power and Duty of an Association of Churches. What Griffith wrote in his essay became a pattern for later Baptist associations in America. In his research, Griffith arrived at three principal conclusions regarding the authority of an association over local churches.

First, the Baptist association must never lord it over the local church. Griffith affirmed that each church is an autonomous body. He stated, "Each particular church hath a complete power and authority from Jesus Christ, to administer all gospel ordinances..., to receive in and cast out, and also to try and ordain their own officers, and to exercise every part of gospel discipline and church government, independent of any other church or assembly whatever."

Early Baptist associations were much more concerned with local church autonomy than with associational authority.

Second, local church autonomy does not mean that associations have no authority at all. Just as the local church is an independent body, the association is also a self-governing body with the authority to withdraw fellowship from churches and individuals seen to be defective in generally accepted doctrine or practice.

However, Griffith emphasized that associations do not have the power to deliver deviate churches over to Satan. The authority of the association is limited to the right to withdraw fellowship from a church that deviates from acceptable faith. Moreover, the association has the right to withhold membership from churches that do not measure up to the ideals of the association. The association, however, does not have the right to "de-church" a local body of believers.

Baptist associations recognize that the local church has the right to exist apart from the action of the association.

Third, the association can advise churches on proper procedures and beliefs in ecclesiastical matters. The early associations were often called upon to advise local churches with their questions. The local church could choose to accept or reject the counsel of the association. However, rejection of the association's recom-

mendations, especially concerning doctrinal matters, often led to the exclusion of that church from membership in the association.

As a basis for doctrinal agreement, the Philadelphia Baptist Association adopted the London Confession of Particular Baptist as its statement of faith. Based on the London Confession, the association often served as an ordination council, and examined the credentials of itinerant preachers. Heretical or immoral ministers would be disciplined and even excluded from the association.

Griffith cited the first church council in Acts 15 as a Biblical basis for such actions by the association. In Acts 15, some false teachers had taught the young church at Antioch that circumcision was essential for salvation, and that Gentile believers must be circumcised in order to be saved. The church at Antioch sent messengers to the church in Jerusalem in order to discuss and settle this matter. The council that convened in Jerusalem affirmed that salvation is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ.

On September 19, 1749, the Philadelphia Baptist Association approved Griffith's essay as a model for the association to follow. The essay was signed and affirmed by all of the delegates present at that meeting.

Griffith's essay became a model for subsequent Baptist associations in America.

Lay is associational missions director for Carroll-Montgomery Association in Winona. He may be contacted at carmont@bellsouth.net.

Insurance Consultants Group

www.webicg.com

Specializing in Health Savings Accounts

DAVE RAMSEY-endorsed

local provider for health insurance.

Call for your free quote and consultation today

1-888-828-0905 or 601-824-0905

SMALL GROUPS: get on a Bible Safari path.

Don't miss former IMB missionary, pastor, D.Min, Preston Taylor's 102 fascinating Bible Topics for group discussions.

Topics: angels, cross, family, forgiveness, God, joy, love, prayer, rewards, salvation, worship, etc. Each topic has an Intro illustration followed by 10 Bible references; thought-provoking questions on every verse. Tell group leaders about the 102. Xulon Press, 225 pgs., \$13.95. Cokesbury 20% discount. Barnes & Noble, etc., highly recommended.

Call 866-909-2665

CLASSIFIED ADS

REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE: SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE: 3/9 interstate, 3.9 in state. Ask about rates as low as 1.9 state to state. No monthly service charge. Call 1-866-587-8346 or www.low-emphonenumber.com haroldt.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptistry murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlglass, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

JASPER COUNTY BAPTIST Association located in Bay Springs, Miss., is seeking a part-time bi-vocational Association Missions Director. This is a part-time position, and the position does not include housing facilities. Please send resumes no later than July 1, 2007 to Jasper County Baptist Association, P.O. Box 385, Bay Springs, Ms. 39422.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705. **LET DAVE RAMSEY'S E.L.P.** for health insurance save you \$\$. Insurance Consultants Group. Before you buy—C. Lavell Smith & Bobby Williamson. Call today for your free quote! Call (888) 828-0905 OR (601) 824-0905.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ZACHARY is seeking full-time Children's Minister. Please send resumes to 4200 Main St., Zachary, LA 70791, attn: Lauren Baudouin or email laurenb02@hotmail.com.

QUIET GATLINBURG CABIN RETREAT: 2 bdrm — sleeps 6. Mt View from deck.

Full kitchen, level entry, \$95/nite. For Information: (251) 666-2175, (c) (251) 689-9982, email: pd1w@worldnet.att.net.

GULF SHORES VACATION: Large 3BR/2BA home in Gulf Shores, AL.

Sleeps 10 in beds, \$850 per week, plus \$85 cleaning fee. Call (225) 241-5667 or visit www.gsfamilyretreat.com.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

ATTENTION FATHERS, grandfathers, sons, mens' groups. Promise Keepers & white water rafting July 18-21. Ocoee river rafting, Nashville Pk., 3 nights, 4 days. Includes modern motor coach, 428-1121, Sylvia (601) 722-4712.

300
1707-2007
YEARS
of BAPTIST
ASSOCIATIONS
in AMERICA

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Renew Your Devotion Today

Deuteronomy 29:10-15; 30:1-3, 6, 11-14, 19-20

By Laura Leathers

RESOLVED, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently that I may plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of them.

This is one of the seventy resolutions Jonathan Edwards wrote from 1722 to 1723, before the age of 20. Some 21 years later he preached a sermon from Deuteronomy 32:35 entitled "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." His sermon penetrated the hearts of the people. They cried out in fear and terror at the thought of facing God's judgment. The result — thousands came to Christ. God used one man's unwavering devotion to commence The First Great Awakening which swept across America in 1741.

Moses, a man devoted to God and to whom the LORD spoke to face to face (Exodus

33:1, Deut. 34:10) emphasizes in his farewell speech the real issue before the nation of Israel was not about inheriting the land (29:4), but a need for a circumcision of their hearts (30:6). (The New Covenant, see Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:26,27). Individually, and as a nation, they had a decision to make regarding their devotion to God.

The outline for our lesson today clearly defines the steps necessary to renew our devotion to God. Let's begin with ...

1. Come Before God (Deut. 29:10-15)

Moses extends the invitation to everyone to come before the LORD. Notice that he specifically names each group including the stranger in your camp. They were to "enter into" the covenant with God. They were to come before Him with an



Leathers

attitude of submission, placing their faith and trust in Him, and acknowledging their sins. They were to "enter into His oath" which would be a binding agreement to obey God's covenant. Furthermore, He would "establish you as a people for Himself." This relationship was not to be taken lightly because it would affect future generations.

To come before the Lord means we are to have "a repentant attitude, sincere acts of worship, and a willingness to pursue a godly lifestyle."

2. Return to Passionate Obedience (Deut. 30:1-3, 6)

Deuteronomy 34:10-12 tells us Moses was "described as a prophet without equal." Looking into the future he knows Israel will forsake the Lord, follow after idols, and will experience God's judgments. However, as Moses glimpses into the centuries He also saw hope — the future restoration of Israel and a time of God's blessings.

Notice the key words "heart" (vv. 2, 6, 10) and "return" (vv. 2, 3, 8, 10) in this chapter. Warren Wiersbe writes, "The connection is obvious: if God's people turn from their sins and return with all their heart to God and God's commandments and obey them, they will enjoy life as only the Lord can give." This is passionate obedience!

3. Realize You can Know and Obey (Deut. 30:11-14)

Have you ever said, "Lord, I can't do what You're directing me to do?" This passage is filled with assurance that the nation of Israel could know and obey because "this commandment is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven ... nor beyond the sea ... But the word is very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it."

Years ago in Interlaken, Switzerland, I heard Tom Elliff make this statement: the only time you can use the word "always" is with reference to God's Word. You can always go to His Word for everything you need in your life (see 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Therefore when we say we can't do what God is directing us to do; it is as one friend told me, "A slap in God's face and His ability to equip and empower." In order to know and obey, we have to believe God.

4. Choose Life Today (Deut. 20:19-20)

"It's a no-brainer," means you really don't need to think long and hard about a decision, the answer is evident. The nation of Israel, with heaven and earth as their witnesses, had one choice to make — life or death.

In the Gospel of John the word 'life' is used 36 times, more than any other New Testament book. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life (6:35), I am the way, the truth, and the life (14:6), and I am the resurrection and the life (11:25). I have come that they might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly 10:10."

Today choose life, live intentionally to the glory of God, and renew your devotion to Him — it's a matter of eternity.

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Await God's Timing

Habakkuk 1:2-3, 5-6, 13; 2:2-4; 3:16-19

By Charles Rodgers

If you are like most Christians, no doubt there have been times in your life when you have become frustrated or confused over what you considered to be unanswered prayers. Most of us are listening only for "yes" answers to our prayers, and we get angry when the answer is "no" or "wait and see." God wants His people to pray honestly to Him, and to learn to wait patiently and confidently for His answers to their prayers. Habakkuk prophesied to Judah concerning the coming invasion by the Chaldeans. He was a compassionate man who loved his people greatly. Unlike the other OT prophets, he was Israel's representative before God. The other prophets were considered to be representatives of God to Israel.

Basically, the book consists of two outcries from the prophet, two responses by God and an affirmation of faith by the prophet.

Our Scripture passages are about Habakkuk's prayer for God to act, God's response that He was acting according to His own timetable, and Habakkuk's decision to trust God as he waited for Him to work. There are three questions that are answered by Habakkuk that teach us to wait patiently and confidently for God's answers to prayers.

The first question is: Will God ever act? Habakkuk 1:2-3, 5-6

O Lord, how long shall I cry? Obviously, Habakkuk has called upon God before concerning the wickedness taking place in Judah. It seems that God has done nothing to this point in response to the



Rodgers

prophet's persistent appeal. He wonders maybe if God has even heard his cries, if maybe God is paying his prayers no attention. He is perplexed by the affliction of the godly and the prosperity of the ungodly. He is ready to put God on the time clock.

He wants to know when God will deal with His people's wickedness.

God answers the question with "hang on Habakkuk, I'm about to do an unbelievable thing that even you may not be able to believe." God says he will raise up the Chaldeans to march through the land and possess it. This is certainly not the response Habakkuk was looking for. He wants the wicked of Judah to be punished and the righteous to flourish, but not at the hands of the Chaldeans. Will God ever act? The answer is yes, but maybe not in the way we expect Him to. Through Habakkuk's outcry to God and God's response, we

learn that we may not always see clearly that God is active in His world, but we may be confident that He is always at work to carry out His purposes.

The second question is: Does God always do right? Habakkuk 1:13, 2:2-4

Habakkuk questions the appropriateness of a holy God sending the wicked Chaldeans to punish Judah. It is as if Habakkuk is saying, "Lord, this doesn't seem right. You are using evil people to punish less evil people." God challenges Habakkuk to be a man of faith. God's plan has already been set into motion, time is racing on, and the end is near. It will come to pass without delay. He informs Habakkuk that the Chaldeans will get no real lasting pleasure out of their efforts. God challenges Habakkuk to choose between being egotistical like the Chaldeans, or living by faith. While we may not always understand God's ways, we can and should always trust Him to do what is right.

The third question is: How will I respond? Habakkuk 3:16-19

Habakkuk speaks of hearing the stories of God's care for His people in the past. The possibility of God's intervention on behalf of the people of Judah leaves him weak and helpless. He is just overwhelmed by what he hears that God will do on behalf of his people. He makes the choice to await the promised judgment against the Chaldeans and its aftermath with patience and confidence in the Lord and His timing.

"No matter what happens," Habakkuk says, "I will trust in the Lord." He will find both his strength and his security in God. Our response should be similar. While we might question our circumstances and the Lord's ways and timing, we should choose to wait for the answers to our prayers with patience and confidence in the Lord and His timing. He will answer our prayers, and He will bring us to victory over our enemies.

Rodgers is Associational Missions Director for Jackson Association and a member of First Church, Gautier.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

Photograph attachments are permissible. Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. Youth Group, Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora



2. Senior Adult Rally Attendees, First Church, Coldwater



3. Annie Armstrong Goal Exceeded, Highland Church, Natchez



4. GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends, First Church, Indianola



1. The youth group of Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora, hosted a Mexican graduation fiesta for their two graduates, Lara Threet and Julie Griffin May 12. Shown, front row, are Jamie Leach, Nikki Leach, and Hailey Hitt; back row, Griffin, Kiaya Threet, Threet, Billy G. Salley, and Garrett Oswalt.

2. Senior members of First Church, Coldwater, attended the Senior Adult rally in Vicksburg May 17-18, and are shown enjoying a meal at the Baer House.

3. Highland Church, Natchez, exceeded their \$3300 Annie Armstrong offering goal by collecting over \$3800. Shown are some of the children of the church.

4. The GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends of First Church, Indianola, recently participated in their annual GA retreat and RA campout. Shown are the participants.

5. First Church, Houston, recognizes its Bible Drillers. From left, Casey Jo Hollingsworth, Katelyn Hardin, Holly Powell, Sydney Harrell, Danielle Rodgers, Kristen Marsh, Caysi Mitchell, Grady Nabors, Garrison Howell, and Carley Hood.

6. The RAs and GAs of North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton, saved their pocket change and contributed \$109.50 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Shown are the participants.

7. The GAs of New Salem Church, Caledonia, raised over \$800 by walking for multiple sclerosis, in a show of support for one of their leaders, "Ms. Karla." The walk was Apr. 14 in Columbus. Shown are some of the participants.

8. Central Church, Little Yazoo, ordained (from left) Jamie Carter, Chucky McGinty, J.T. McDaniel, and Walter Fisher as deacons.

9. Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, is hosting the Mark Trammell Trio July 8, 6 p.m. No admission, but a love offering will be taken.

5. Bible Drillers, First Church, Houston



6. RAs and GAs, North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton



7. GAs, New Salem Church, Caledonia



8. Deacon Ordination, Central Church, Little Yazoo

LifeWay CHURCH BUSES

Buses are provided for LifeWay by

Carpenter
BUS SALES

America's #1 Church Bus Dealer

1-800-370-6160
carpenterbus.com